



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/674,765	09/30/2003	Matt Pinter	SPE05 P-101	4464
28101	7590	06/15/2005	EXAMINER	
VAN DYKE, GARDNER, LINN AND BURKHART, LLP			TON, ANABEL	
2851 CHARLEVOIX DRIVE, S.E.				
P.O. BOX 888695			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49588-8695			2875	

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

21

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/674,765	PINTER, MATT	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Anabel M. Ton	2875	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 March 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: In line 3 of claim 1 after "lower" applicant has written, " said of said panel". Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 22-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Parker (6,755,547)

1. The recitation " a shelf assembly" has not been given patentable weight because the recitation occurs in the preamble. A preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951). Furthermore, there is no mention of a shelf or shelf assembly anywhere in the body of the claim.

Parker discloses the claimed invention except for the recitation of specifically a plastic body molded to the panel. Parker discloses a panel (14) having a pair of opposed edges (14, has edges as seen in figure 3) and two opposed spaced apart sides extending from the opposed edges and defining an upper side and a lower side of the panel (14 begins at an edge and continues from the edge forming panel 14, which has an upper and lower side), a body (27), molded to the panel at each of the opposed edges (col. 4 lines 61-67, col. 6 lines 28-50), a light source (3) positioned in one of the bodies (lights 3 in combination with 12 position into molded body 27) at one of the opposed edges of the panel the light source generating light and directing the light in an initial direction(forward by means of 12 and 15) into the panel through the edge of the panel (19) and the panel being adapted to redirect the light from the initial direction in an illumination direction through at least one of the upper and lower side of the panel (with regards to the term "adapted to", the applicant is advised that it has been held by the courts that the recitation that an element is "adapted to" perform a function or serve in a given application is not a positive limitation, but only requires the ability to so perform. *In re Hutchinson*, 69 USPQ 138.) In this case the panel is adapted to redirect the light from the initial direction by means of film or sheet 27). With regards to the body molded to the panel being plastic, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have made the sheet, 27, of Parker of plastic, since plastic in the form of acrylic or polycarbonate is old and well known in the illumination art for it's optical properties especially in light guide applications.

- The light source comprises a plurality of light sources (3);

Art Unit: 2875

- The light sources are positioned along one of the opposed edges (light sources in light transition area 12 are positioned along an opposed edge of the panel 14);
- With regards to the light sources being positioned at both of the opposed edges, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place additional light sources at another edge of the panel of Parker since it has been held that mere duplication of essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8. Furthermore, additional light sources would provide for a greater illumination output of the panel.
- With regards to at least one light source positioned at another edge of the panel, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to place additional light sources at another edge of the panel of Parker since it has been held that mere duplication of essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8. Furthermore, additional light sources would provide for a greater illumination output of the panel.
- With regards to the panel comprising a glass panel, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the panel of Parker glass since the optical properties of glass are old and well known in the illumination art for their use in light guides.

### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 22-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Furthermore, subsequent applicant's amending of claim 22, a new rejection was necessitated by this amendment to the claim.

3. In response to applicant's arguments, the recitation a shelf assembly has not been given patentable weight because the recitation occurs in the preamble. A preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951).

### ***Conclusion***

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

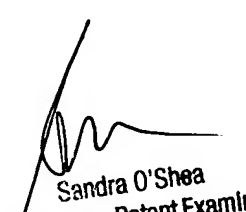
TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anabel M. Ton whose telephone number is (571) 272-2382. The examiner can normally be reached on 08:00-16:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Anabel M Ton  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2875



Sandra O'Shea  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2800

AMT